



27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

So much has happened since we closed the doors at Constantine last Friday, we hope you are all doing OK and that everyone is happy and healthy! We miss you!

Today would have been the last day of the Spring term and the start of our Easter break and for that reason the staff at Constantine will pause our usual contact with you until after the Bank Holiday, Monday 13th April. If you need to contact us during this period please use our **Academy Email Address**: constantine@kernowlearning.co.uk.

But first, we would like to share our thoughts and hopes for the families of our pupils and send a huge thank you to you all for the support and understanding that you have shown us during this challenging time.

We know that lots of people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening and we understand that this might include the work being sent home for your child. The staff at Constantine want to give our perspective on this, hopefully to put your mind at rest, relieve some pressure and help you through the tricky times ahead.

- The work being sent home is not intended for you to provide home-schooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting on the whole world so let's keep it in perspective. Home-schooling is a choice, it's considered, you plan for it and you are your child's school teacher in whatever form you choose. What schools are currently offering is, at best, distance learning. In reality, it's everyone trying to find sense in a worrying and confusing time; attempting to work from home, care for the health and well-being of family members near and far and manage the ongoing anxiety caused by the current crisis.
- You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and is going to spend the entire period playing in the dirt, or baking, or watching TV, then that is your choice. That is your right. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.
- Schools did not have time to plan for this either! We had no notice, no preparation time and we were not asked to 'continue to plan lessons as normal and just send them home.'
- It is absolutely not possible to deliver home-schooling with a primary aged child and work from home at the same time. If you're trying to do that, **stop**. There are lots of family activities that you can do to support your child's learning, but your focus is your job, and survival. Again, these are exceptional circumstances.

Our thoughts and responses to a few frequently asked questions:

My school has sent home lots of work. How am I supposed to get through it all?

You're not, don't try. It's not a competition, or a race. Activities and on-line resources are just suggestions of things that your child could do at home, if possible, if you have the time.

My school keeps sending home links and emails with more work, where do I start?

Again, these are simply ideas of ways to keep children busy whilst at home. Use them if they suit you, or if they interest your child, don't if they don't. We would rather your child was active than on a screen too much, taking daily exercise as a family will have much longer lasting benefits.

Someone in my child's class has everything done and we've barely started. Will my child fall behind?

All children learn at different rates. There's a wide range of levels in every class, in every subject. This is not a race, or a competition. Concepts are repeated year on year at all stages of education. Children will forget some things but learn others-don't worry. Once school has re-opened we will find out where your child is and start to build on this once more.

Building with Lego, drawing, cooking and playing outside are all valuable learning experiences so give yourself and your child a break. If your child is old enough, try to get them to do little bits independently. Otherwise try to do something that all ages can engage with, reading a story together, some free writing, junk modelling, baking etc.

So what would be the ideal for a child at Constantine?

- A bit of reading every day
- Sharing books together and talking about them
- Some free writing every now and then, perhaps keeping a diary or writing simple letters to relatives or friends
- Practical hands on maths, counting games, cooking, weighing etc.
- Fine motor work- Lego, cutting, playdough, drawing
- Art and music opportunities- this doesn't need to be structured
- Physical exercise every day!

You are doing enough and we are most impressed with your efforts so far, so thank you. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time.

*Good luck, stay healthy and have a
Happy Easter
The Constantine Primary School Team*